

TAU CETI

WRITTEN BY
JOHN TWIDDY

INSTRUCTIONS

ORIGINAL CONCEPT:
PETE COOKE

© CRL GROUP PLC 1986

CBM 64/128

TAU CETI

The story begins in 2047 with the invention of the Interstellar drive. Using hydrogen scoops mankind could collect fuel from the thin spread of hydrogen between the stars. This made it possible for the exploration and colonisation of nearby systems.

In 2050 the first wave of colonists left Earth for four nearby G type stars, Alpha Centauri, Tau Ceti, Van Maanen's Star and Beta Hydri. Seven months later the first wave of colonists arrived at Tau Ceti and began to build a civilization on the third planet, an inhospitable desert world with very little life. For over 90 years the colony grew and prospered. The Cetans built over 30 cities across the planet and a strong trade based on mining, robot technology and hydroponics.

Then, in 2150 disaster struck this and one other of mankind's four growing colonies. A vicious plague, Encke's syndrome swept across the planet. Once contracted the disease was invariably fatal and as it swept from city to city the few remaining colonists finally admitted defeat and fled, leaving the planet to the robot maintenance systems.

Two years passed and on Earth a cure for the disease was found and links between the two remaining colonies, Alpha Centauri and Beta Hydri, were resumed. About this time all radio contact was lost with the automatic systems remaining on Tau Ceti III as a massive meteor smashed into the planet.

As the remaining starbases recovered from the loss it was decided to recolonise Tau Ceti and Van Maanen's star. In 2164 the first expedition left for Tau Ceti. A single ramscoop entered the system and safely landed on the planet's surface. Minutes later, a mayday message was received, followed by total silence. Experts decided that the robots, so skillfully designed by the first colonists, had run amok after the meteor impact. After seven years, and the successful recolonisation of Van Maanen's Star, a second expedition was organised. The only way to stop the defence systems without destroying the remaining buildings was to send in an armed ground-skimmer to shut down the massive Fusion reactor in the planet's capital city, Centralis. A single skilled pilot might be able to succeed where fifty would surely fail, and like a fool, you volunteered!!!

CONTROLLING THE SKIMMER

The gal-corp armed skimmer is a powerful and dangerous craft and challenging for even the most experienced pilots. The skimmer is equipped with . . .

A single mounted ruby laser

Defensive shields

Eight (8) heat seeking missiles + targeting system

Eight Anti missile missiles (AMM's)

Eight starlight flares

Infra-red night sights

A hoffman 360 degree scanner and 4-way selectable viewscreen to avoid blind spots

Planetary compass and computer ADF (automatic direction finding) beacons

A JCN command computer (guaranteed fully debugged for normal use).

On loading the program you will be presented with a view of the skimmer's instrument panel. The screen is divided into three areas. The large window on the left is your viewscreen, below that is a long blue area. This is your contact with the skimmer's powerful inbuilt computer. Finally on the right of the screen are five information windows. At the top is a compass and real-time clock along with a message showing the view selected, the city you are in and the ship's flight state. Below that is the scanner, and below that three more smaller windows. The first gives the pilot's name and the scanners complement of missiles/AMM's and flares. The second shows speed, shield energy, fuel remaining, laser temperature and height and the third displays 2 ADF's:- the upper one locked onto the city and the lower onto the nearest Jump Pad.

The skimmer operates in two modes, flight mode and ground mode. In flight mode control of the program is via single keys or a joystick. In ground mode you are in direct communication with the crafts computer via the computer window. On loading the program will go into a demo sequence. To stop the demo press BREAK.

The commands available are given below along with a short description.

HELP

Lists commands as below.

LAUNCH

Normally ground mode is only active when you are docked. Launch will send the skimmer out onto the planet's surface and activate flight mode.

MAP

The computer will display a map of the planet showing information about the cities. Use Left, Right, Up, Down and Fire keys to move the cursor over the map and fire to select a function.

RODS

This will allow you to assemble cooling rods found throughout your mission.

REACTOR

When docked with the Main Central Reactor on Centralis will give you access to the reactor room.

LOOK

Shows a view inside the building. Also any objects of use there.

WAIT

Waits 5 Earth minutes (about 1/12 of a Cetan "spin")

STATUS

Gives a damage and progress report
(also available in flight)

EQUIP

Allows access to a building repair,
refuelling and rearming facilities (if any)

NAME

Use at the start of the game to give the
computer a pilot's name

PAD

An on-screen note pad. Allows you to
make notes of progress etc.

NEW PAD

Selects a fresh page in the note pad

SAVE

Saves game to tape

LOAD

Loads a game from tape

KEYS

Allows you to totally redefine the single
key commands in flight mode

QUIT

Abandons a game

SCORE

Gives a rating of your progress so far

PAUSE

Freezes the game (fire restarts)

SIGHTS ON

SIGHTS OFF

To start the game type LAUNCH (and
press ENTER).

Your skimmer will leave the safety of the
lander and venture on the surface of the
planet.

Exploration of the planet is carried out in
FLIGHT MODE. When first loaded the
following keys are used (but you may
redefine any or all of these for your own
preference/Kempston or cursor joysticks
etc.).

Left.....	Z
Right.....	X
Increase thrust	.
Decrease thrust	/
Fire laser	Space
Fire missiles	M
Fire flare	F
Fire AMM	A
Change view	V
Scanner	S
Status report	R
Infra red on/off	I
Increase height	:
Decrease height	.
Jump (if near jump pad)	J
Land	L
Pause (Fire restarts)	←

A MESSAGE FROM GAL-CORP CENTRAL
TAU-CETI III GENERAL INFORMATION

The planets day.

Tau Ceti III has a very short day,
approximately equal to one Earth hour.
The cetans call this period a 'SPIN' and
group 16 spins to a "DAY". As the planet
has no moon you will need to use the
Infra-red equipment to see anything after
sunset.

Docking on the planet.

Many of the buildings on the planet's
surface are equipped with DFP's latest
model energy screened airlock,
recognisable by the characteristic
flickering pattern, and your craft will
allow you to dock with these buildings if
you wait for the airlock to open to full
aperture and fly in SLOWLY!
Once inside a building the computer will
return you to ground mode giving you full
access to any facilities available.

Navigation on CETI III

The planet has the now standard
system of JUMP PADS to allow easy
transport from one city to the next.
Unfortunately the pads are of the old non-
programmable 'Super Traveller' type and
each pad is mapped to a single destination.
Luckily your ships computer has a
complete map of the jump network, to
jump from one city to the next simply find
the correct jump-pad (they are found at
the NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST ends
of the city) and press J.
Gal-corp recommends caution on exit
from a jump as reports indicate that small
'sand hoppers', a native life-form, tend to
cluster around the feeder pipes of jump
pads and lives have been lost in the past
due to collisions.

Defence estimates.

It is known that many of the cities will be
defended by late-model robot hunters
marks I, II and III, sophisticated and well
armed hunter-killers and reports indicate
that land-based guardian crawlers and
heavily armoured fortresses may be found
in larger cities. Radar scans also detect the
presence of proximity mines. An identi-
fication chart for known robot defences is
given at the end of this report. . . .



MAIN CENTRAL REACTOR



REACTOR SUBSTATION



HUNTER MK I



HUNTER MK II



SUPPLY CENTRE (CIVILIAN)



SUPPLY CENTRE (MILITARY)



HUNTER MK III



JUMP PAD COMPLEX



FORTRESS



CONTROL TOWER

FINALLY A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM
OUR CHAIRWOMAN. . . .

Please try to avoid wanton destruction of
unarmed buildings. Gal-corp central do
want to COLONISE this world after you've
finished with it and each undamaged
dwelling will save millions on next years
budget!!

GOOD LUCK

Message ends.